

Senate Fight Opens on Age of Conscripts

Bill Is Laid
Aside to Make Way for
Army Measure

Most Slackers Over
25, Says Gallinger

Minority Report of House
Military Committee At-
tacks Volunteer System

[From The Tribune Bureau]

Washington, April 21.—A fight to raise the age of the men from whom the army is to be conscripted today, under the leadership of Senators Gallinger, of New Hampshire; Nelson, of Minnesota, and Kenyon, of Iowa, that seemed to muster more strength than the opposition to the selective draft principle. The Senate laid aside the espionage bill and took up the army measure, by a vote of 53 to 5. The five Senators who voted against taking it up were (Germans, of North Dakota; La Follette, of Wisconsin; Johnson, of California; Thomas, of Colorado, and Fernald, of Maine.

Greene and La Follette filibustered against the armed neutrality bill. Both voted and talked against the declaration of war.

Senator Thomas was opposed to laying aside the espionage bill, because he deemed the section granting the President the power to impose an embargo of more immediate and pressing importance than the army bill. He is also opposed to the selective draft principle. Senator Fernald was anxious that the embargo question should be taken up as soon as possible. Senator Johnson also was much interested in the espionage bill.

Says Slackers Will Escape Draft

Most of the slackers, Senator Gallinger declared, could be found on such streets as Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington; the Bowery, in New York, and North Street, in Boston.

"And most of them are more than twenty-five years old," he said, "so that they would not be caught by this bill."

"Little Canada has played her part," said Mr. Gallinger. "She has paid her \$1.16 a day. The American people will resent sending our boys across the ocean to fight the battles for the allies at a paltry \$15 a month."

"Canada and Australia have sent the best soldiers the world has ever seen to France. They were obtained by the volunteer system."

"I do not think it is fair or correct," he continued, "to say that the volunteer system failed in our civil war, or in the Spanish-American war, or that it failed in Great Britain."

"It is absurd," declared Senator Wadsworth, of New York, "to say that the system under which Great Britain raised millions of men before being forced to the draft was voluntary. The men were such pressure on every man, no matter how many persons were dependent upon him, that not only was it most unfair, but it was anything but voluntary enlisting which drove men into the British army."

Useless Sacrifice

"Then the very best men, who in many instances with a little more training would have made excellent soldiers, were killed off in useless sacrifices, being rushed to the trenches. The men of the regular army, known as the Purple Heart men, were a crack Canadian regiment. Nearly every man of that regiment was capable of being a good officer. Yet of the 1,500 men in that regiment only about forty survived after six weeks' fighting. They were rushed to the trenches, and fought in infantry, because of the vital need for men immediately."

"Does the Senator reflect on their bravery?" asked Mr. Gallinger. "Some men had to go to those trenches. That was brave, and I take my hat off to them," said Mr. Wadsworth. "But it is not war; it is waste."

"The advocates of conscription in the House Military Affairs Committee, in a minority report issued today, quoted at length from the testimony of Captain Benson, of the Somerset Yeomanry, before the committee. He told of the persecution to which those who did not volunteer were exposed, and of the inequality and unfairness, as well as the inefficiency, of the whole volunteer plan."

"Some of those who favor the volunteer system point with pride," says the minority report, "to the fact that 1,000 volunteers are enlisting every day at the present time. According to a letter from the Secretary of War to the chairman of the committee, 724,718 volunteers will be required for our regular army and National Guard organizations."

Time Would Be Wasted

It would, therefore, take 724 days, including Sundays, or about two years, to get the volunteer forces required for our two branches alone of our military establishment. "It is that the only difficulty. It takes many months to select and train necessary officers for such a force. Without proper officers, the enlisted personnel, under the most favorable circumstances, would be little more than a disorganized mob."

"The plan of the minority, on the other hand, embraces volunteer enlistment for the regular army and the National Guard organizations which already in existence under our laws. Conscription with such enlistments would provide immediately for an additional force of 500,000 men under selective conscription. "It is our judgment that the volunteer system is not a fair one. It is neither equitable nor democratic. In this Republic every American should share an honor in bearing his share of the country's burden. That can be done only under the principle of universal obligation to service."

"Of the eight members of the Military Affairs Committee signing this minority report four saw actual service in the volunteer army during the Spanish-American War, and one of them saw additional service during the Mexican border trouble. They have knowledge at first hand of the success of the volunteer system, and they all join in this report protesting against the evils of that system and in favor of a system based on universal obligation to service."

Injustice to Conscript

"The majority plan were adopted at this time and should again prove

Any Compromise on Draft Plan Opposed in Administration Plea

Secretary Baker Tells House Military Committee Any
Change from Principles of Conscription Would Have
Unfortunate Results—Bill Provides for Volunteers

Washington, April 21.—A letter from Secretary Baker of the War Department, the final plea from the Administration to the House Committee for the Selective Draft, was made public to-night in the report of the minority of the committee, which supports the draft plan. It says:

I have a deep conviction that any compromise of the principles governing the bill submitted by the department for the raising of a new army would be attended by unfortunate results.

The bill as drawn preserves so much of the volunteer spirit as can be preserved without embarking on the experiment of a mixed system of draft and volunteering. It makes place for several hundred thousand men above the age of twenty-five, who may be moved to volunteer, and by equalizing the terms and condition of service in the regular army, National Guard and additional forces give such volunteers entire equality with all others in the national forces.

The drafting provision starts at the outset a process by which the forces of the country can be called as they shall be needed, according to an equal and just system, and it has these merits:

1. It spreads the burden of military preparation equally throughout the United States.

2. It is certain in its operation, so that after the registration is made every man in the country will know whether he is to be called and when he is to be called upon, allowing those who are not to be called, or whose call is postponed, to continue their normal pursuits undisturbed by uncertainty as to their duty and unagitated by neighborhood pressure or misunderstanding.

It starts at the beginning of the accumulation of these new forces and has none of the character of a penalty which attaches to the draft when it is used after volunteering has been tried and failed.

I have studied every report I can secure of the use of the volunteer system abroad and in our own country, and I believe it to be true that in every place where it has been tried, whatever success it has had has been due to a system of compulsion more harsh and almost as drastic as the provisions of a law itself.

In the countries of Europe where a failure, the conscript would once more be looked upon with disfavor. If, on the other hand, the legislation that is enacted provides for selective conscription, every citizen of the Republic will know that those who have been selected have been called to the colors by their country as a universal obligation to serve in the hour of the nation's need."

The Representatives signing the minority report are Kahn, of California; McKenzie, of Illinois; Greene, of Vermont; Richard Olney, of Massachusetts; John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut; Thomas S. Grady, of Pennsylvania; Thomas W. Harrison, of Virginia, and George R. Lunn, of New York.

Representative Kahn will have charge of the Administration fight for the selective draft, while Chairman Dent, in charge of the whole bill, will lead the fight for the volunteer amendment.

Members outside the committee are talking about the possibility of a compromise. A plan laid before two members of the Cabinet and before Chairman Dett preliminary to saying it upon the President, proposes to permit volunteering for thirty days after the passage of the bill, with authority to the President to mean while organize machinery for the selective draft, which would be authorized at the expiration of the thirty days.

War Conference

With All States

Called by Baker

Secretary Asks Governors to

Send Delegates to Council

at Washington

[From The Tribune Bureau]

Washington, April 21.—Secretary Baker today asked the Governors of all states to send delegates to a conference to be held by the Council of National Defense in Washington on May 2. One of the chief subjects for discussion by the conference will be the relationship between state and Federal organizations in the prosecution of the war. Secretary Baker's telegram to the Governors said:

"A national defense conference, to consist of one delegate from each state, for the purpose of considering the relationship of state and Federal activities in the prosecution of the war, and the methods of organization of state and local defense committees and of their cooperation with the Council of National Defense, will be held in Washington at the Secretary of War's office on Wednesday, May 2, at 10 a. m. "I request that you send as a delegate the head or some representative of your state council of defense, or similar committee, if such has been appointed; or if none has been appointed, that you send some one to represent you thereat."

The conference will be presided over by Secretary Baker, as chairman of the Council of National Defense. Among the questions to be taken up will be the military and food situations. These will involve plans for both military and industrial censuses, and an attempt will be made to have a uniform means of census-taking. The preliminary work toward the cooperation of state agencies with the Federal government has already been begun by Director Gifford of the council and George Porter.

Eight states—Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Wisconsin—have already appointed councils of defense. Plans for the organization of similar bodies are well under way in Arkansas, Kansas, West Virginia, Wyoming, Georgia, California, Connecticut and Nebraska, and it is expected that before the conference all states will have appointed councils.

1,500 New York Men Will Train in Georgia Camps

Army Plans Instruction
for Overflow from
Plattsburg

Picked Cadets Go First

Commissions in "First Ten
Thousand" To Be Given to
"Natural Leaders"

[From The Tribune Bureau]

While provision is being made at Plattsburg for only 2,500 recruits from New York City for the officers' instruction camp to be opened there on May 1, the Eastern Department has devised a method by which perhaps 1,500 additional New Yorkers may participate in the first school for commissions. The surplus will be sent to Fort McPherson and Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., where the cadets will be expected to be filled to the authorized capacity by applicants from the South.

This announcement was made by Captain Arthur F. Crosby, in charge of the Training Camp Information and Recruiting Bureau, opened yesterday at 19 West Forty-fourth Street, to receive the rush at Governor's Island. Captain Crosby also stated that there will be commissions in the reserve corps for all who have proved themselves competent after three months' training, in addition to the crack material selected from each camp to constitute the "first ten thousand" who will have line commands with the sixteen infantry and two cavalry divisions to be raised this summer.

Men who have been recommended for commissions in the reserve corps, but who had not actually received their certificates when the issuing of such commissions was stopped last week, will be called at the camps as reserve officers. As such they will receive full pay, providing the army appropriations bill passes Congress in its present form. Nothing has yet come from Washington to indicate that others who enlist to attend the camps will receive any pay, despite the pleas of army officers that such a course is discouraging many men of moderate fortune who have excellent qualifications for officers.

Instructions from the Adjutant General have been received by all department commanders to use discretion in selecting cadets for the first camp. It is urged that these future army commanders shall be "the most experienced natural leaders the country possesses, and men who can be promoted to higher grades as succeeding officers" camps turn out their graduates. Ex-service men, or men educated at military schools, or who have shown striking traits of leadership in business, will be favored as applicants. Unless the applicant is a college graduate he must demonstrate he is "clearly a well educated man."

The physical requirements also are rigid. "Other similar camps will follow this first camp," says Adjutant General McCain's order. "Young men will be admitted to the first camp, but not to the exclusion of mature men. In the second and following camps young men will predominate."

It has been reported that while twenty years and nine months is the minimum age limit for the first camp, none, under twenty-five, will be commissioned in the "first ten thousand."

Supplementing Secretary Baker's letter, the minority report says the members of the committee are laymen and adds:

In this great crisis we deem it to be our patriotic duty in this matter of increasing temporarily the military establishment of the United States to follow the counsel of the commander in chief of our army and his expert advisers. Of the eight members of the Military Affairs Committee signing this minority report, four saw actual service in the volunteer army during the Spanish-American War, and one of these saw additional service during the Mexican border trouble. They have knowledge at first hand of the inefficiency of the volunteer system, and they all join in this report protesting against the evils of that system and in favor of a system based on universal obligation to service."

West Point Graduate to Wed

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Glover, of 36 East Seventy-sixth Street, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Anne W. Glover, to Lieutenant Richard E. Anderson, U. S. A., a graduate of West Point, '12.



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Army Bill Carries Pay For Reserve Officers

[From The Tribune Bureau]

Washington, April 21.—The War Department made the following announcement today regarding training camps: "There appears to be some misunderstanding with reference to War Department plans for training camps. With reference to the pay of reserve officers who may attend training camps ordered by the War Department April 17, the situation is as follows:

"The plan for these camps as ap-

proved by the Secretary of War stated that reserve officers would be invited to attend these camps without entering into the enlistment contract required by Section 54, national defense act, of those citizens who attend these camps and who are not reserve officers, unless in the meantime appropriations permit the War Department to order these officers to active duty for instructions, in which case they shall be so ordered. It was further provided that their status as reserve officers shall not be adversely affected if they fail to attend."

"At the time this plan was prepared a state of war did not exist. There were no appropriations then from which these officers could be paid. It was always and is now the intention to order the reserve officers to active duty when appropriations permit it. This was clearly stated as indicated above."

"Pending the passage of the army appropriation bill now before Congress the following instructions have been given to department commanders: 'Make necessary preparations to order all reserve officers of infantry, cavalry, field artillery and coast artillery to duty at training camps ordered April 17 on active service under Section 35, national defense act. This will put

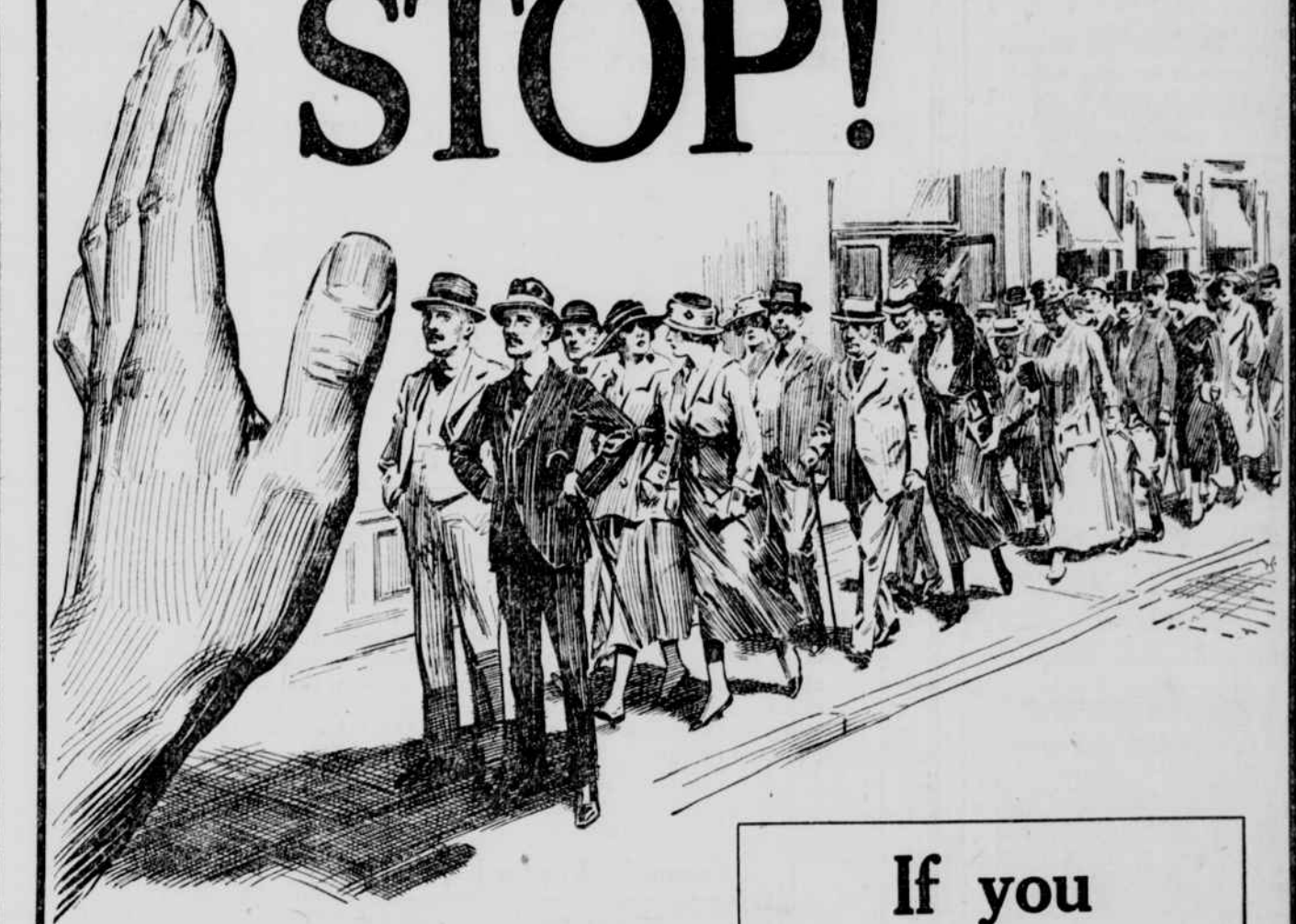
them on the same status as regular army officers, with respect to pay and allowances. The above information will not be disseminated until the appropriation bill passes and you are informed to issue the orders.'

"When the establishment of training camps was ordered it was, of course, apparent that the further examination of candidates for appointment as officers of the reserve corps should be deferred until the suitability of applicants could be carefully inquired into in the training camps. The accumulation of business at department headquarters and at the War Department has made it impossible to act finally on examination reports as rapidly as they arrive."

"Every applicant who has been examined and knows definitely that he has been recommended for appointment may be sure that he will be commissioned in due time, unless some vital defect is found in the record or unless the appointment cannot be legally made because of the provision of the national defense act that compels the appointments in various grades to be in certain ratios."

Wilson Statue for France

Deauville, France, April 21.—Upon the initiative of Mayor Le Hoc, a committee of citizens has been appointed for the erection of a statue of President Wilson here.



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